

Graduate Catalog

2011-2012

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Department website: <http://web.nmsu.edu/~nmsucomm/>

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Anne Hubbell, Department Head, Ph.D. (Michigan State)–organizational communication, health communication; G. Armfield, Ph.D. (University of Missouri—Columbia)–organizational communication, communication theory; J. Flora, Ph.D. (Kansas)– communication; K. L. Hacker, Ph.D. (Oregon)–computer mediated communication, political communication; E. Morgan, Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts)– communication and culture

DEGREE: Master of Arts

MAJOR: Communication Studies

MINOR: Communication Studies

The Master of Arts in Communication Studies provides students with a social scientific approach to the study of human interaction, using quantitative and qualitative methods. Our curriculum is designed to explore how oral communication takes place interpersonally, within organizations, within our political system, and between and within cultures. Students take courses in interpersonal communication, organizational communication, political communication and/or cultural communication. All graduate students take courses in communication theory and research methods. In addition, students can take courses in topic areas such as conflict management, small group communication, persuasion, and nonverbal communication.

The program offers a wide variety of courses allowing students an opportunity to select topics pursuant to their special interests. In addition to courses, students have the opportunity to obtain practical experience by participating in professional activities offered by the department; for example, graduate teaching assistantships, research, and colloquia.

DEGREE: Master of Arts

MAJOR: Communication Studies

The department offers both thesis and non-thesis options in its Masters of Arts program. Both options require a minimum of 36 credits, which includes not only Communication courses but courses from outside the department. The thesis option requires at least 30 credits of coursework, 3–6 credits of thesis (COMM 599), and an oral defense of the thesis and coursework. The non-thesis option requires 36 credits of coursework, plus a comprehensive written examination, followed by an oral defense. Both options require a minimum of 30 credit hours of Communication courses.

Degree Requirements

Both of the following courses are required:

COMM 505, Research Methods*	3
COMM 583, Seminar in Theories of Communication**	3
Total	6

Students must take three of the following four courses:

COMM 540, Seminar in Political Communication**	3
COMM 570, Seminar in Organizational Communication*	3
COMM 576, Seminar in Communication and Culture *	3
COMM 584, Seminar in Interpersonal Communication**	3
Total	9
COMM electives	9–15
Electives in Related Fields*** (graduate levels; numbered 450+)	3–6
Thesis Option: COMM 599, Thesis	3–6
Non-thesis Option: Additional Graduate COMM Electives	3–6
Total in COMM	30
Grand Total	36(min)

*COMM 505, 570, & 576 are offered only once every year, usually in the Spring.

** COMM 583, 540, & 584 are offered only once every year, usually in the Fall.

*** Anthropology, Education, English, Government, Psychology, Journalism, Management, Marketing, Sociology, &/ or Women's Studies.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

SPCD 451. Intensive English as a Second Language I 3–18 cr.

Instruction in speaking, reading, and writing basic conversational English. Class meets 30 hours weekly. Enrollment limited to beginning level graduate students in the International Intensive English Program. Consent of instructor required.

SPCD 452. Intensive English as a Second Language II 3–18 cr.

Continuation of SPCD 401. Class meets 20 hours weekly. Enrollment limited to intermediate-level graduate students in the International Intensive English Program. . Consent of instructor required.

SPCD 453. Intensive English as a Second Language III 3–18 cr.

Writing and speaking scientific English. Class meets 10 hours weekly, with additional laboratory hours at the instructor's discretion. Enrollment limited to advanced-level graduate students in the International Intensive English Program. Consent of instructor required. Prerequisite(s): SPCD 402 or consent of instructor.

SPCD 458. Advanced Speaking and Listening for International Graduate Students 3 cr.

Advanced speaking and listening skills for active participation at the graduate level. Emphasis on pronunciation and individual goal setting. Includes a theoretical component involving library research or preparation and presentation of a teaching unit. Prerequisites: placement and 530 TOEFL or consent of instructor. Graded S/U, RR.

SPCD 460. Intermediate ESL Composition and Grammar 3 cr.

Development of fluent academic writing skills, with an emphasis on grammar review for editing purposes. Prerequisite(s): Placement based on English language screening test, and either a minimum TOEFL score of 500 or consent of instructor.

SPCD 470. Scholarly Writing for International Graduate Students 3 cr.

Instruction and practice in writing major academic genres, including experimental, descriptive, and problem-solution research reports, proposals, and library referenced papers. Prerequisites: placement based on English language screening test or successful completion of SPCD 110; a minimum TOEFL score of 500 or consent of instructor; and successful completion of SPCD 108/490 where indicated by placement. Graded S/U.

SPCD 490. Seminar Skills for Foreign Students 3 cr.

Advanced skills required for active participation in academic discussions and oral presentations. Includes

extensive video-taping which is replayed for evaluation. Prerequisite: placement based on English language screening test, and a minimum TOEFL score of 500 or consent of instructor.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

COMM 450. Technologies of Human Communication 3 cr.

Development and evolution of human communication technologies from prehistory through the future of computer-mediated communication networks. Examines behavioral, cognitive, social, cultural, and political issues of new communication technologies and their use and management. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing.

COMM 455. Fundamentals of Communication and National Security 3 cr.

This course addresses communication perspectives informing national security, strategic intelligence, and the intelligence process. Students will examine U.S. national security history, policy, the development of the Intelligence Community, and intelligence as processes of communication. This course serves as an introduction to national security studies.

COMM 456. Communication and the Intelligence Cycle 3 cr.

The course addresses communication requirements and the technical, cognitive, and cultural complexity of the collaborative research environment. Students participate in novel, team-based problem scenarios that provide the foundation for acquiring advanced cognitive analytic methods and strategies. Students will engage in interdisciplinary information science processes and will develop and present analytic products responding to national security requirements.

COMM 457. Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy 3 cr.

This course covers history, theory, and research related to the use of communication to change attitudes in favor of U.S. national security interests. Students will examine the use of strategic communication and influence in diplomacy, intelligence, and military communities in terms of specific strategies, effects, and issues. Students will learn to distinguish public diplomacy, information operations, public affairs, and other forms of political communication that are used by the U.S. government to persuade target populations about American interests and goals. Topics include soft power, intelligence-based negotiation processes, and research methods used to identify influence techniques or groups that threaten U.S. national security.

COMM 458. Intercultural Communication and National Security 3 cr.

This course provides a concentration on cultural factors in international affairs and conflicts, how culture affects perceptions of national interests, and the relationship of U.S. national security to understand the general and political cultures of other nations. Students will integrate cultural and intercultural communication theory and behavior, with an emphasis on the development of specific communication skills to facilitate developing cultural knowledge in government and political contexts. Students will learn how to study the cultural factors that affect international conflicts and how strategic communication should address such cultural factors.

COMM 460. Deception and Communication 3 cr.

Deceptive communication including nonverbal indicators of lies, types of lies, and influence of relationships on lying behavior and interpretation.

COMM 462. Family Communication 3 cr.

A communication perspective on traditional and nontraditional family configurations, roles, interaction patterns, and conflict. Includes an examination of media depictions of families and family interaction, as well as current social and political issues related to the family. Same as W S 462 and FCS 462.

COMM 463. Communication and Gender 3 cr.

Study of communication, gender and culture, including theoretical approaches to gender development, the implications of gender identity, gendered patterns of verbal and nonverbal communication, and the rhetorical dimensions of gender. Discussion of gendered communication in the workplace, as well as the influence of media on gender. Same as W S 463.

COMM 465. Nonverbal Communication 3 cr.

Study of and experimentation with nonverbal aspects of human communication as vital components of the total communication process.

COMM 470. Leadership Communication 3 cr.

Examination of traditional theories and concepts of leader–follower dynamics; presentation of cognitive, systems, and symbolic interpretative views of leadership with an emphasis on persuasion and motivation in leader–follower interactions.

COMM 473. Interpersonal Problems in the Organization 3 cr.

Explores the connection between the interpersonal and organizational contexts. Prerequisites: COMM 370 and COMM 384.

COMM 475. International Communication 3 cr.

Exploration of the forms and channels of communication substantially influenced by international cultural and political factors. Covers: global communication technology; news, information and entertainment flows; international diplomacy and negotiation, communication in war and peace.

COMM 477. Environmental Communication 3 cr.

Examines the link between communication and environment within the context of communication scholarship. Topics include sense of place, cultural approaches to interacting with environment as well as exploring current themes surrounding environment.

COMM 480. Health Communication 3 cr.

Examination of central issues in communication theory and practice as applied to health care. Includes communication in health care organizations, media dissemination of health information, role of communication in disease prevention and health promotion, and symbolic meaning of illness within cultures.

COMM 483. Communication in Friendships and Romantic Relationships 3 cr.

Examines communication in adult friendships and romantic relationships that do not have legal commitments. Includes trends in friendships, benefits and problems within cross and same–sex friendships and romances, gender differences in communication within adult friendships and romances and the communication of friendship and romance on the Internet. Prerequisite: COMM majors or consent of instructor.

COMM 484. Verbal Communication 3 cr.

Examination of rules governing conversational structures such as speech acts, action sequences, topics and topic shifts. Also covers humor in conversation and conversational control.

COMM 485. International Teaching Assistant Development 3 cr.

International teaching assistants will receive instruction in communicative skills to enable them to meet their responsibilities at NMSU. Course includes lectures, seminars, video–taped presentations, and tutorial sessions emphasizing pedagogic and presentation skills and styles. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

COMM 490. Independent Study 1–3 cr.

Individualized, self–paced projects for advanced students. Prerequisites: COMM 265G and junior standing with consent of participating instructor. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.

COMM 491. Selected Topics 1–6 cr.

Individual and/or group study of selected topics. To be identified by subtitle. Prerequisite: prior arrangement with faculty supervisor(s). May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits.

COMM 495. Communication Internship 3 cr.

Internship opportunity to apply what has been learned to a real–world situation. Prerequisite: junior standing and 3.0 GPA in major. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Restricted to majors.

COMM 505. Research Methods 3 cr.

COMM 506. Qualitative Research Methods in Communication 3 cr. Survey of qualitative research methods in the study of human communication, including historical and critical approaches, interviewing, participant–observation, and communication ethnography. Students apply methods to their own research.

COMM 506. Qualitative Research Methods in Communication 3 cr.

Survey of qualitative research methods in the study of human communication, including historical and critical approaches, interviewing, participant-observation, and communication ethnography. Students apply methods to their own research.

COMM 535. Seminar in Psychology of Human Communication 3 cr.

Advanced study of psychological processes involved in interpersonal communication. Covers person perception and message production.

COMM 540. Seminar in Political communication 3 cr.

Political communication theory, research, and issues. Empirical studies of campaigns, movements, news media, voter decision-making, political participation, socialization, and knowledge. Political theory, field research, communication science findings and research methods.

COMM 545. Seminar in Ethicism, Racism, and Communication 3 cr.

Course focuses on theories and research concerning the social, cognitive, and communication aspects of ethnic and racial prejudice. Specific psychological and communication processes of person and group categorization are explored along with findings about the effects of ethnic prejudice on everyday communication (and vice versa).

COMM 550. Seminar in Communication Technologies 3 cr.

Seminar on design, usage, and social impact of electronic mail, communication through computer networks, and new technologies of organizational communication such as group decision support systems (GDSS). Each student will study an actual application of a major communication technology in an organization.

COMM 551. Seminar in Persuasion 3 cr.

Work with an actual persuasion campaign, such as public information, political, or commercial marketing campaigns. Includes case studies of large-scale persuasion efforts, current theoretical models of persuasion processes, and methods for studying, evaluating, and refining messages for optimal effects. Prerequisite: COMM 351 or consent of instructor.

COMM 555. Seminar Fundamentals of Communication and National Security 3 cr.

This seminar course addresses communication perspectives informing national security, strategic intelligence, and the intelligence process. Students will examine U.S. national security history, policy, the development of the Intelligence Community, and intelligence as processes of communication. This course serves as an introduction to national security studies. Graduate students are required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

COMM 556. Seminar Communication and the Intelligence Cycle 3 cr.

This seminar course addresses communication requirements and the technical, cognitive, and cultural complexity of the collaborative research environment. Students participate in novel, team-based problem scenarios that provide the foundation for acquiring advanced cognitive analytic methods and strategies. Students will engage in interdisciplinary information science processes and will develop and present analytic products responding to national security requirements. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

COMM 557. Seminar Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy 3 cr.

The seminar course covers history, theory, and research related to the use of communication to change attitudes in favor of U.S. security interests. Students will examine the use of strategic communication and influence in diplomacy, intelligence, and military communities in terms of specific strategies, effects, and issues. Students will learn to distinguish public diplomacy, information operations, public affairs, and other forms of political communication that are by the U.S. government to persuade target populations about American interests and goals. Topics include soft power, intelligence-based negotiation processes, and research methods used to identify influence techniques of groups that threaten U.S. national security. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

COMM 558. Seminar Intercultural Communication and National Security 3 cr.

The seminar course provides a concentration on cultural factors in international affairs and conflicts, how

culture affects perceptions of national interests, and the relationship of U.S. national security to understand the general and political cultures of other nations. Students will integrate cultural and intercultural communication theory and behavior, with an emphasis on the development of specific communication skills to facilitate developing cultural knowledge in government and political contexts. Students will learn how to study the cultural factors that affect international conflicts and how strategic communication should address such cultural factors. Graduate students will be required to fulfill advanced research and presentation requirements.

COMM 570. Seminar in Organizational Communication 3 cr.

Communication strategies and patterns of private and governmental organizations, including research on communication systems.

COMM 576. Seminar on Communication and Culture 3 cr.

Cultural and intercultural communication theory and research. Focuses on discovering and describing distinctive ways of speaking within and between cultures.

COMM 577. Seminar in Conflict Management 3 cr.

Advanced examination of communication strategies to manage and negotiate conflict in intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, and organizational settings.

COMM 583. Seminar in Theories of Communication 3 cr.

Communication systems, symbolic processes, analysis of messages.

COMM 584. Seminar in Interpersonal Communication 3 cr.

Theories of interpersonal communication and communication within a relationship, including study of relevant models, contexts, and constructs.

COMM 590. Independent Study 1–6 cr.

Individualized, self-paced projects. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

COMM 591. Special Topics 1–9 cr.

Individual and/or group study of special topics. To be identified by subtitle. Prerequisite: prior arrangement with faculty supervisor(s).

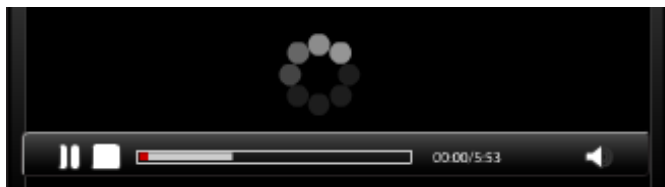
COMM 595. Communication Internship for Graduate Students 3 cr.

Internship opportunity to apply what students have learned to the real world. Prerequisite: 9 credits of M.A. degree. Restricted to majors.

COMM 599. Master's Thesis 0–88 cr.

Thesis.

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